in the following year, (That is the harvesting season) and so on for successive years." May I know whether it amounts to a remission of the revenue on the part of the Government.

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—It is practically so, as the Hon'ble Member for Kattur has admitted it. We are in 1107. We will get Rs. 52,000 in Medam and Edavam. This Kuttatan is a 10 months crop. It is not a 4 months crop. You start the cultivation operations in Kumbham You are able to harvest it only in next Dhanu. So that the assessment you will be able to collect only in Makaram, Kumbham and Meenam 1108; if we accepted the resolution. So that Government loses the revenue for one year. Both the Hon'ble Mover and the supporter are interested and they know it.

മിസ്റ്റർ സി. എൻ. ഇട്ടിരവി നമ്പൂതിരി.—ഇതിൽ കാര്യമായിട്ട് എനിയ്ക്കൊന്നും പറയുവാനില്ല. ഇങ്ങിനെ ഒരു കമ്മിറ്റി വന്നിട്ട് ഞങ്ങൾക്കു ആകാലത്തു ഈ നികുതി മാറ്റി കിട്ടണമെന്നില്ല. എന്നെക്കൊണ്ടാകുന്നതുവരെ ഞാൻ കൊടുക്കണം. എന്നാൽ ഇക്കൊല്ലത്തെ നികുതി കൊടുക്കാൻ സാധിയ്ക്കാത്ത ആളുകൾ ഇല്ലാത്തതിനാൽ ഇക്കൊല്ലം നികുതി കൊടുക്കാൻ എല്ലാവരും ഉണ്ടാകും സാധുക്കളാണ് അധികവും ഈ കുട്ടാടൻ കൃഷിചെയ്യുന്നതു്. ഈ നിലയിൽ അവർക്കു പണിചെയ്യുവാൻ സാധിയ്ക്കാതെ വരുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു ഇപ്പോഴുള്ളതു പക്ഷെ പിന്നീടു്, അതായതു ഒരുനാലുമാസം കഴിഞ്ഞു് കൊടുക്കത്തക്കവണ്ണം നീട്ടിക്കൊടുക്കണമെന്നെ ഞാൻ പറയുന്നുള്ളു. വേണമെങ്കിൽ അതിന്റെ പലിശകൂടിയും തരാം. അങ്ങിനെയാണെങ്കിൽ അതു് പറയണം. എനിക്കു ഇന്നുകിട്ടാനുള്ളതു് കിട്ടാതെ കൊടുക്കാൻ വഴിയില്ലെന്നല്ല, അങ്ങിനെ കിട്ടാനുള്ളപണം കിട്ടുന്നതിനു മുമ്പെ നികുതി പിരിക്കുന്നുണ്ടു്. ഞങ്ങൾക്കു നികുതിയിൽ കുറച്ചുകിട്ടണമെന്നില്ല. ഈ അവസരമൊഴിച്ചു ബാക്കിസമയങ്ങളിൽ എപ്പോൾ വേണമെങ്കിലും രണ്ടു നികുതി പിരിച്ചോളൂ. ഞങ്ങൾക്കൊരാക്ഷേപവുമില്ല. എനിയ്ക്കു തോന്നുന്നതു് ഈ കമ്മിറ്റി വന്നാലും യാതൊരു ഫലവും ഉണ്ടാകയില്ലെന്നാണു്. ഇതിൽ കൂടുതലായൊന്നും പറയുന്നില്ല ഞാൻ ഇതിനെ വിൻവലിയ്ക്കുന്നു.

ഞാൻ വേറൊന്നും പറയുന്നില്ല. ഇനി തരേണ്ടതിനു ഒരു നാലുമാസത്തെ ഇട കൂടികിട്ടണമെന്നു മാത്രമെ പറയുന്നുള്ളു അതു് കമ്പൽസറിയാക്കണമെന്നു ഞാൻ പറയുന്നില്ല. ഇതു വേണ്ടെന്നുള്ളതു് ഈ സഭതന്നെ തീർച്ചയാക്കട്ടെ എന്നുദ്ദേശിച്ചാണു് പ്രമേയം തന്നെ കൊണ്ടുവന്നതു്.

5. Remunerative Enterprises by Village Panchayats.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—The resolution reads thus:—"This Council recommends to the Government to take immediate steps to induce and encourage Village Panchayats to undertake remunerative enter-

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prises to increase their financial resources (instead of depending as at present solely on Government contributions) so as to gradually become self-supporting units of self-governing institutions of the State."

I don't think a long speech is necessary to commend this resolution to the House. I have purposely made it long so that all the Members may understand the purport in full. It is a well-known fact that Panchayats are entirely financed by the Government and it is also a well-known fact that such contributions are not sufficient to meet the necessities of the Panchayats. It is no use always depending upon the Government and asking the Government to give all that they want, because the Government is to find funds for so many things. Therefore, it may not be always fair to entirely depend upon the Government for financial support and therefore, I think, it is time to take some steps, however small they may be, to increase the financial resources of the Panchayats. To argue by analogy, it would be found that Municipalities are allowed to increase their financial resources over and above the funds that they could collect by taxation and by certain other means. Now, the things that are common to all the Municipalities of the State, if I remember correctly, are three, i.e., maintenance of markets, cart-stands, slaughter-houses, etc. That is all what I say now. Even with regard to cart-stands, the amendment to the Municipal Regulation, brought by the Hon'ble Member for Law this morning, appears to me to deprive the Municipality of one of the sources of revenue, namely the revenue by farming out the cart-stands. There are at least two other things remaining. I do not see any objection for the Panchayats being allowed to raise some funds by leading in a similar way, because we find the Municipalities as well as the Panchayats are practically, or at least to a large extent institutions composed of elected members. Now one such thing that I would suggest by way of an example is to allow the Panchayats to open and maintain markets. I do not see any reason why such things should not be done. Of course, in far more important, and if I may say so, civilised institutions many other things are undertaken for the benefit of the people as well as for the benefit of the self-governing units, as county councils, Municipalities, etc, in western countries. Of course, I give only one illustration suitable to the circumstances of our Panchayats. Many other things may be thought of and worked out. I commend the resolution with the request only that the Panchayats may be consulted, where they are in a position to increase their finances by undertaking remunerative enterprises. I do not call upon or request the Government now to do anything on their initiative. As the understanding is that these are

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institutions of self-Government I do not see why the Panchayats should not be encouraged to undertake these things so far as their powers, capacities and circumstances pemit them. With these words, I commend the resolution to the acceptance of the House.

Mr. I. N. Menon.—On a point of informotion. Does it mean the power of raising a local rate.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—No. My wording is perfectly clear.

Deputy President.—The proposition is not seconded and until it is seconded no question should be put.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—I beg to second it.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—On a point of order. After the conclusion of a speech before it is seconded can a question be put?

Deputy President.—That is the reason why I called to order.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—I am asking to make myself clear whether that is the rule—whether after the speech is over, if a question is put by the Government side, can the Member answer unless it is seconded.

Deputy President.—I vetoed the question of the Hon'ble Member on the Government side on the ground that the resolution was not seconded.

Mr. I. N. Menon.—I want to ask the Hon'ble mover of this resolution whether the powers contemplated by this resolution involve power of imposing local rate, because the scheme suggested by the Hon'ble Member did not exactly amount to any enterprise, auctioning of slaughter-houses or cartstands.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—I mentioned those things only in connection with Municipalities. What I say in the resolution is to undertake remunerative enterprises.

Mr. I. N. Menon.—I am rather in the dark as to the exact nature of these enterprises.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—Please mention one.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—One is the market.

Mr. P. S. Kesavan Nambudiri.—I welcome the idea underlying this resolution, for giving sufficient encouragement to these local bodies. Only these local bodies can really understand the needs of particular localities and satisfy those needs. It was due to the existence of these local self-governing bodies in ancient India that was accountable for the efficient administration in that period. But then I do not clearly understand the scope of this resolution. The mover wants these local self-governing bodies to be self-supporting without the help of the central Government. Then these institutions will have to

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organise themselves into separate independent bodies. That will lead to a diarchic system of Government. On one side there is the central Government ; on the other, we have these local bodies collecting their own revenue. Then comes the question of revenue. There are only two or three alternative methods for raising the revenue. The mover has mentioned some of them. As far as I know, the remunerative enterprises are those coming under agriculture, industry, commerce and so on. I do not know whether he wants these local institutions to launch upon enterprises like these. If that is not possible, then there is another method, by levying extra cesses like water cess for supplying water to the localities. Now they supply water and for that they get funds from the central Government. Instead of that, they can collect water cess and supply water. Then educational cess. If you want to bring the primary education under the local bodies as in British India,—they have done with regard to education especially primary education—then you will have to collect an educational cess.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—Are these remunerative ?

Mr. P. S. Kesavan Nambudiri.—That I don't say. But these are some of the methods of collecting revenue. Sometimes they will be forced to raise revenue by other methods, like professional tax. That will certainly be an additional burden on the people. If that is the idea, then I am certainly to oppose this resolution. Because already now the people are highly taxed and if you are going to tax the people in addition to the existing tax, that will be more burdensome. But there is another method. The Government may hand over some of their sources of revenue to these Panchayats. Then these bodies can collect their revenue from those sources and maintain themselves. In that case also the existing administrative machinery will have to be multiplied and you will have to organise a separate department as you have got in British India, like the District Boards and the Taluk Boards. I do not know whether the mover of this resolution aims at the establishment of such institutions. Then that will have to be seriously considered and I don't think by a resolution like this that object can be achieved.

Mr. K. G. Nayar.—On a point of information, Sir. May I know whether the Government is dissuading and discouraging Village Panchayats from undertaking remunerative enterprises?

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—Not in the least. Government have taken and are taking the initiative and Government are spending three lakhs of rupees every year in organising Village Panchayats.

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Deputy President.—Government view may be expressed.

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—This is a most laudable resolution. Certainly panchayats must be self-supporting. We do not want them to depend on Government doles for ever. In the early stages when we organised panchayats we had the honour to convene a conference of all the panchayats and then following the lead of the Madras Government we made some proposals for empowering the panchayats to tax themselves in their neighbourhood for all their local wants and requirements. Our idea was to withdraw from the field and to let the panchayats stand on their own legs and conduct all their operations themselves. At the conference, though it was not a legally constituted conference, we had panchayat members, who all stoutly opposed any idea of taxation. They said "We are satisfied with what little they are getting from it. Let us have magisterial powers. We want to become bench magistrates and bench court Judges and to exercise supervision over panchayat courts. We cannot tax ourselves." Government always do not want to worry people and impose any additional tax on them. As far as possible with the resources at our disposal we are spending practically 3 lakhs, though the original idea was only to spend the small amount of Thirumulkazhcha realised from landholders. Now we are spending about three lakhs. It will be very good if the panchayats were to organise some remunerative enterprises of their own. I was expecting to get some practical seggestions from the Hon'ble Members. The Hon'ble Member referred only to the markets. In the proposed amendment of 1096 to the Panchayat Regulation of 1089 we wanted to vest in the panchayats the power to manage their markets so that they can get license fees. At that time it was not approved by the conference. Since then a large volume of water has flown under the bridge. That was in 1096 and we are in 1107. Our Legislative Council has been established and now we find the elevation of a responsible spirit. With a notable spirit of responsibility the Hon'ble mover says that the Village Panchayat must be allowed to launch on some remunerative enterprises. We have got a Bill and we will introduce the Bill to enable the panchayats to tax themselves so that they can be self-supporting. Agriculture, sugar industry, jaggery making industry, all these can be started by them. If they want money we can give them from our allotment for industrial loans. We have got rules for giving industrial loans. For instance sugar cane industry, little weaving industry, little ginning industry, all these small industries can be started. The little gain may be made use of by the panchayats. We had on the anvil a Panchayat Amendment Regu-

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lation. If it is the desire of the Hon'ble Members on the non-official side that we should re-open that subject and go in for a Bill to enable the panchayats to tax themselves and also to encourage them to start industries, it can be brought under section 11 of the Panchayat Regulation. Starting of Co-operative societies, starting of industries, all these can be brought to promote the prosperity of His Highness' subjects, under section 11 of the Panchayat Regulation. If it is the wish of the Hon'ble Members on the non-official side that the panchayats which are units of local self-Government should tax themselves, certainly they are quite welcome and we ourselves will introduce a Bill at the next session.

Deputy President.—I am glad the Leader of the House gave us a very good speech, not even allowing the Panchayat Superintendent to reply.

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—Old men must come for the help of the young.

Deputy President.—He was very active and he did not allow the Panchayat Superintendent to reply.

മിസ്റ്റർ ടി. കെ. നായർ.—ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട റെവന്യൂ മെമ്പർ പറഞ്ഞതു കേട്ടപ്പോൾരണ്ടുവാക്കു പറയാതെ നിവൃത്തിയില്ലെന്നായി. പഞ്ചായത്തുകാർ ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിന്റെ സഹായം കൂടാതെതന്നെ അവർക്കു വേണ്ടതായ പണികഠിക്കുംമാറും അതായതു പഞ്ചായത്തുത്തിക്കുള്ളിൽനിന്നു മുതലെടുപ്പുണ്ടാക്കി വ്യയംചെയ്യേണ്ടതാണെന്നുള്ള അഭിപ്രായംവളരെ നല്ലതുതന്നെ. പക്ഷേ അതു നടപ്പിൽവരുത്തുവാൻ മാത്രമെ ഞങ്ങക്കുള്ളൂ. ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിൽനിന്നും ഓരോ പഞ്ചായത്തിലേക്കും കൊടുക്കുന്ന സംഖ്യയും ആ പ്രദേശത്തുനിന്നു പിരിച്ചെടുക്കുന്ന സംഖ്യയുമായി യാതൊരു സാമ്യവുമില്ലെന്നു പറയാതെതന്നെ എല്ലാവർക്കും അറിവുള്ളതാണ്". ഉൾനാടുകളിലേക്കു ഒരു കിണറൊ, ഒരുകുളമൊ, ഒരുവഴിയൊ വേണമെങ്കിൽ പഞ്ചായത്തുവഴിയാണെല്ലൊ പണം ചിലവിടുന്നത്. പഞ്ചായത്തുകാർക്കു കൊടുക്കുന്ന സംഖ്യ എത്ര കുറവാണെന്നു ഞാൻ ഇവിടെ ബോദ്ധ്യപ്പെടുത്താം. ഒരു കിണറിനു പഞ്ചായത്തുകാർക്കു കൊടുക്കുന്നതു സുമാർ ൪൦൦ ക. യാണ്. അതെസ്ഥലത്തു പബ്ലിക്ക് വർക്ക്സ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെണ്ടിൽ നിന്നു കിണർ കുഴിക്കുകയാണെങ്കിൽ വ൦൦ ക. യാണ് അനുവദിക്കുന്നത്. ൪൦൦ ക. ചിലവിട്ട് ഒരുകിണർ കുഴിച്ചുകെട്ടിവെടുപ്പാക്കേണ്ടതു പഞ്ചായത്തിന്റെ ചുമതലയാണ്. അവർ അതുപോലെയായി നടത്തും. വെള്ളം വഷ്കാലത്തു ധാരാളമുണ്ടാകും. വേനൽകാലത്തു വെള്ളംവേണമെങ്കിൽ വേറെതന്നെനോക്കണം. ഇതാണ് പഞ്ചായത്തുകാർ നാട്ടുകാർക്കു ചെയ്യുന്ന ഉപകാരം. ഇങ്ങിനെയുള്ള ഉപകാരങ്ങൾക്കു പുറമെ കൂടുതൽ നികുതി പിരിക്കു

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വാൻകൂടി ശ്രമമുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ ഉൾനാടുകളിൽ താമസിക്കുന്ന ദരിദ്രന്മാരോടു ലേശമെങ്കിലും അനുകമ്പയുള്ളവർ ആരും ഈഅഭിപ്രായത്തെ എതിർക്കാതിരിക്കുകയില്ല. ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട റെവന്യൂ മെമ്പർപറഞ്ഞതു് കൂടുതൽ നികുതി പിരിക്കുവാൻ അധികാരം പഞ്ചായത്തുകാർക്കു വേണമെന്നാണു്. ഈ സഭയുടെ അഭിപ്രായവും അതാണെങ്കിൽ ഒരു ബിൽ ഉടനെ കൊണ്ടുവരുവാൻ ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടു തയ്യാറാണെന്നാണു്. അതിലേക്കു അദ്ദേഹത്തോടു ഒരുവാക്കു ചോദിക്കാനുണ്ടു്. ഇപ്പോൾ പിരിച്ചുവരുന്ന ലാൻഡ് റെവന്യൂ പിരിച്ചെടുക്കുവാൻ പഞ്ചായത്തുകാർക്കു അധികാരം കൊടുക്കുമോ എന്നാണു്.

റാവുസാഹിബു് മിസ്റ്റർ ടി. വി. കസ്തൂരിരങ്കയ്യർ.—അതുവരവു് പോലെയൊക്കെ ചിലവുചെയ്യുന്നുണ്ടു്.

മിസ്റ്റർ ടി. കെ. നായർ.—ലാൻഡ് റെവന്യൂ പിരിച്ചെടുത്തു് ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടു ചിലവിടുക. നാട്ടുകാർക്കു വേണ്ടതായ കാര്യങ്ങൾക്കു ഒരു നികുതികൂടി പഞ്ചായത്തുകാർ പിരിച്ചു നടത്തുക. ഇതാണു് ഈ പ്രമേയത്തിന്റെ താല്പര്യമെങ്കിൽ ഞാൻ ഇതിനെ ബലമായി എതിർക്കുന്നു.

The House rose for the day at 5 p. m.

C. J. MATHEW,
Secretary to the Council.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly